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CLIAISON 2-1

Orig - Ch D/GC

1 - CH/SS/DDP  
(without Bldg)

Via Fast Pouch

3570-L-2738

24 November 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

THRU :

SUBJECT : Significant Development in Terrain  
Model Preparation

1. It is possible that an unnamed employee of the Production Center Directorate of Military Survey, #1, has developed a radically new and successful technique for constructing terrain models quickly and simply. Details of the technique are closely held by DMS, since its innovator believes the process patentable and applicable commercially. I saw several finished models and learned enough details to convince me the process could have important applications in the Agency, not only in cartography, but also in DD/P and other places.

2. I was shown several terrain models by Mr. Norton, their Chief Draughtsman and head of the Experimental and Development Section. They were about one foot square, constructed of a very light material, possibly plaster. They showed a remarkably detailed mountain area. During a long conversation, Mr. Norton made the following points:

- a. The process is simple and ingenious. No expensive tools are required ("knitting needles" were mentioned).
- b. The relief portrayal is not absolutely accurate over the entire model. That is, a hill of 4000 ft. elevation in one corner may differ by 1/8th inch from an equally high hill in another corner. Adjacent terrain features, however, appear true-to-scale.
- c. Vertical stereopairs of aerial photographs or a contour map are used as sources.
- d. The very detailed sheets shown me were done in three days each ("Anyone can do it with a few days practice").
- e. He (Norton) thinks the process is not patentable, since it involves only a technique. He is going to write a paper on it in a "few months".

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- f. They intend to use the models to get the shaded relief plate for their series maps. Through photography of scaled models, they will maintain a sheet-to-sheet continuity of relief tones not generally achievable.

3. The members of the Production Center impressed me with their comparatively youthful and progressive spirit. This spirit came out in almost every conversation. There is every reason to believe their process is all they purport it to be. It should be noted that this is the same organization which developed the revolutionary photomymograph over twenty years ago.

4. Mr. Norton and Major Fitzsimons (Chief of Cartography, and senior to Mr. Norton) were extremely reluctant to give any details of this new process. The points listed above were not easily obtained. It is not believed advisable to pursue the issue further at this moment; through them, at any rate. One hurdle is the fact that the Production Center is a non-security area, and it was necessary for me to be cautious about my cartographic background. They believe I work for AMS.

5. A possibly successful approach for further details would be through Mr. Lewis of Survey #3. If so, an expression of interest from Headquarters would be a useful gambit. [REDACTED] would profit from a tour of this plant, in January if further details could be shown him. 25X1A9a

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[REDACTED]

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